

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): A kit of parts for use in the manufacture of a particle cassette for a needleless syringe device, said kit comprising:

a first cassette part having a first rupturable membrane sealed thereto; and

a second cassette part having a second rupturable membrane sealed thereto; said first and second cassette parts being arranged to be attachable together by an interference fit, so as to create a chamber for the confinement of particles between said first and second membranes.

2. (currently amended): A kit according to claim ~~1~~ wherein 1, wherein said first cassette part is substantially annular and defines a receptacle for receiving particles.

3. (original): A kit according to claim 2, wherein said second cassette part is substantially annular and is attachable concentrically around said first cassette part.

4. (canceled):

5. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 1, wherein said first and second cassette parts each comprise corresponding features which provide for a snap fit when said first and second cassette parts are brought together.

6. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 5, wherein said corresponding features comprise a detent and a recess.

7. (original): A kit according to claim 1, wherein said first and second cassette parts each comprise a seating face which ensures the attainment of a predetermined dimension of said cassette in the direction in which said first and second parts are attachable together.

8. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 1, wherein said first and second cassette parts each comprise a tapered face which are arranged to contact one another fully when said cassette is properly assembled.

9. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 5, wherein said corresponding features are provided on tapered faces which are arranged to contact one another fully when said cassette is properly assembled.

10. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 1, further ~~comprising~~ comprising:
a third cassette part for locking together said first and second cassette parts.

11. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 10, wherein said third cassette part has a third membrane sealed thereto.

12. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 10, wherein said third cassette part comprises a protrusion for creating an interference fit with said second cassette part.

13. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 1, wherein said first and second cassette parts are shaped so as to be fitted together leaving an annular gap around said first cassette part.

14. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 10, wherein said first and second cassette parts are shaped so as to be fitted together leaving an annular gap around said first cassette part ~~and part, and wherein~~ said third cassette part has a portion which inserts into said annular gap so as to lock said first, second and third cassette parts together.

15. (original): A kit according to claim 1, wherein said first cassette part comprises at least one transfer duct for supplying gas to said particle confinement chamber.

16. (withdrawn): A kit according to claim 10, wherein said third cassette part comprises gas ports for supplying gas to an annular space around said third cassette part.

17. (original): A particle cassette for a needleless syringe comprising:
an assembled kit of the parts claimed in claim 1; and
particles provided in said chamber between said first and second membranes.

18. (original): A particle cassette according to claim 17, wherein said particles comprise powdered drug.

19. (original): A needleless syringe including the particle cassette of claim 17.

20. (currently amended): A method of assembling a particle cassette for a needleless syringe device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) sealing a first rupturable membrane to a first cassette part;
- (b) sealing a second rupturable membrane to a second cassette part;
- (c) supplying particles to said first cassette part; and
- (d) attaching said first and second cassette parts together using an interference fit, so as to create a chamber confining said supplied particles between said first and second membranes.

21. (original): A method according to claim 20, wherein said sealing steps (a) and (b) comprise heat sealing.

22. (original): A method according to claim 20, wherein attaching step (d) does not involve the application of heat.

23. (original): A method according to claim 20, wherein attaching step (d) is carried out at the same temperature as supplying step (c).

24. (currently amended): A method according to claim 20, wherein said first cassette part is substantially annular and defines a receptacle, and wherein said particles-being are supplied to said receptacle in step (c).

25. (currently amended): A method according to claim 20, wherein said second cassette part is substantially ~~annular and~~ annular, and wherein step (d) comprises fitting said second cassette part concentrically around said first cassette part.

26. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 20, wherein said first and second cassette parts each comprise corresponding features which provide for a snap fit when said first and second cassette parts are ~~attached and~~ attached, and wherein step (d) comprises associating said corresponding features to snap said second cassette part onto said first cassette part.

27. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 26, wherein said corresponding features comprise a detent and ~~a-recess-and~~ recess, and wherein step (d) comprises locating said detent in said recess.

28. (original): A method according to claim 20, wherein sealing steps (a) and (b) comprise sealing said first and second membranes around their periphery to substantially annular first and second cassette parts respectively.

29. (original): A method according to claim 20, wherein step (c) is carried out before step (b).

30. (currently amended): A method according to claim 20, wherein said first and second cassette parts each comprise a seating face substantially perpendicular to the direction in which the parts are moved to ~~be-attached-and~~ attached, and wherein step (d) further comprises the contacting of said respective seating faces.

31. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 20, wherein said first and second cassette parts each comprise a tapered face at an acute angle to the direction in which the parts are moved to ~~be-attached-and~~ attached, and wherein step (d) further comprises the contacting of said tapered faces.

32. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 20, wherein said attaching step (d) comprises introducing a third cassette part so as to attach said first and second cassette parts together.

33. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 32, ~~further-comprising~~ comprising the step of:

(e) sealing a third rupturable membrane to said third cassette part before employing said third cassette part.

34. (original): A particle cassette for a needleless syringe device, produced using the assembly method of claim 20.